



CITY & BOROUGH of YAKUTAT

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June 12, 2021

via email to:

Helge Eng, State Forester and Director
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Greg Staunton, Area Forester
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Mindy Byron, Administrative Ass't
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State of Alaska
Division of Forestry, Southeast Area Office
2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Re: Yak Timber Inc. - File NSE 19-01 (04) (Sections 35, 36, T27S, R33E, CRM)

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to formally notify the Division that the City and Borough of Yakutat objects to the above-referenced Notice of Operations filed by Yak Timber Inc. This objection is lodged to protect critical salmon habitat in the area of the north end of the west fork of Ophir Creek.

- The harvest activity would cause irreparable damage to fish habitat. Salmon streams exist in the area of the north end of the west fork of Ophir Creek which are not being protected. There has not been adequate study and analysis of the salmon streams in the area to be harvested, and damage to those streams could substantially impact area users.
- There has been a lack of transparency regarding the proposed operations, and a lack of consultation with community members.

The Borough received substantial public comment on this matter during a special meeting held June 9, 2021. The input received and information shared by knowledgeable locals makes it clear that additional investigation and further discussions are needed before this timber harvesting proceeds. The Borough respectfully requests that timber operations not be permitted to commence at this time so that this further investigation of critical habitat can occur.

Sincerely,

Cindy Bremner
Borough Mayor

cc: Kate Kanouse, ADFG, via email: kate.kanouse@alaska.gov
Jon Wendel, ADEC, via email: jon.wendel@alaska.gov